

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-15 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 SSO-00 SY-10

USSS-00 COME-00 DRC-01 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 ACDA-19 INRE-00 /151 W

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O R 111550Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3151

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

USUN NEW YORK 358

C O N F I D E N T I A L KAMPALA 3014

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UG US XF

SUBJECT: USG-GOU RELATIONS: MEETING WITH GENERAL AMIN

REFS: (A) STATE 195521; (B) STATE 201368; (C) KAMPALA 3000

1. MEETING WITH GENERAL AMIN OCT. 11 (SUMMARIZED REFTEL C)
LASTED ABOUT THIRTY MINUTES. ALSO PRESENT WERE ETIANG, NEWLY
APPOINTED ACTING MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, TV AND
PRESS REPORTERS AND CAMERAMEN. WHILE WAITING TO SEE GENERAL,
ETIANG EXPLAINED THAT THIS MEETING WAS TAKING PLACE AT GENERAL'S
INITIATIVE, ALTHOUGH HE WAS AWARE OF MY WISH TO SEE HIM. I
ASKED ETIANG IF HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE ALL RIGHT FOR ME TO
CARRY OUT MY INSTRUCTIONS, AND ETIANG SAID IT WOULD BE.
FORTUNATELY, REF (B) HAD ARRIVED JUST BEFORE I WAS SUMMONED
TO SEE AMIN.

2. GENERAL BEGAN BY LEADING ME UP TO WALL MAP. POINTING TO
MEDITERRANEAN, HE SAID HE HAD RECEIVED GOOD INTELLIGENCE THAT
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AMERICAN SIXTH FLEET IS OPERATING IN MEDITERRANEAN NEAR NORTH

AFRICA AND NEAR EAST COASTS. (LATER ON, WHEN I WAS ABLE TO GET IN A WORD, I TOLD HIM SIXTH FLEET HAS BEEN OPERATING IN MED. SINCE WORLD WAR II.) GENERAL POINTED TO STRAITS OF GIBRALTAR AND ADEN AND SAID "WE" (MEANING HE AND ARABS) MIGHT HAVE TO BLOCKADE THESE TWO STRAITS TO PREVENT U.S. FROM RESUPPLYING ISRAEL WITH SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT. WE THEN SAT DOWN.

3. AMIN CONTINUED THAT I SHOULD TELL MY GOVERNMENT NOT TO SUPPLY ISRAEL WITH WEAPONS VIA COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT FLIGHTS. HE SAID RUSSIA HAS SUPPLIED WEAPONS TO ARAB STATES BUT IS NOT JOINING IN THE FIGHTING. NOW THAT UGANDA HAS JOINED THE FIGHTING, HE SAID, IF THE AMERICANS INVOLVE THEMSELVES--SEND PEOPLE IN TO JOIN THE FIGHTING--HE WILL IMMEDIATELY BREAK RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES AND WILL PUT ALL AMERICANS IN UGANDA IN PRISON, STARTING WITH THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES. WE WOULD REMAIN IN PRISON, HE CONTINUED, UNTIL ALL AMERICANS WITHDREW FROM THE FIGHTING.

4. AMIN THEN READ ME SEVERAL QUOTATIONS FROM BOOKLET HE HAD BESIDE HIM, PROTOCOLS OF THE LEARNED ELDERS OF ZION. THESE CONCERNED EXTERMINATION OF CHRISTIANS, CONFUSING THE MASSES, AND EMPLOYING POVERTY, ALL TACTICS USED BY THE JEWS, AMIN SAID. HE SAID THIS COPY OF THE BOOKLET HAD BEEN GIVEN TO HIM PERSONALLY BY GENERAL DAYAN WHEN HE HAD VISITED ISRAEL IN 1968 FOR TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF ISRAELI INDEPENDENCE. ANOTHER COPY HAD BEEN GIVEN TO HIM BY ALTHEA KIRONDE, WIFE OF FORMER MINISTER OF PLANNING, WHO HAD RECEIVED IT FROM SOME BLACK AMERICANS.

5. BEFORE I COULD INTERRUPT, THE GENERAL SNATCHED UP A FRAMED PHOTOGRAPH OF A TIME MAGAZINE COVER CARTOON SHOWING PRESIDENT NIXON AS A QUARTERBACK BEING RUSHED BY THREE HUGE LINESMEN LABELLED "FOOD PRICES", "WATERGATE" AND SOMETHING ELSE. AMIN REMARKED THAT THIS WAS THE PRODUCT OF A "JEWISH NEWSPAPER" WHICH SHOWED THAT THEY HAD NO RESPECT FOR THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT, WHICH WAS TYPICAL OF JEWS. AMIN THEN SHIFTED TO THE PHONE-TAPPING BUSINESS, WHICH HAS BEEN REPORTED BY SEPTELS. FOLLOWING THIS HE SHIFTED BACK TO THE MIDDLE EAST, SAYING THAT IF WE HAD ANY PEACE PLANS WE SHOULD COMMUNICATE THEM TO HIM IMMEDIATELY, AS HE IS IN PERSONAL AND DIRECT TOUCH WITH THOSE FIGHTING ON THE FRONT LINES AND HE COULD THEREFORE ARRANGE A CEASE-FIRE.

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6. FINALLY, HE SAID HE WOULD BE GOING TO NEW YORK TO DELIVER A SPEECH AT 3 P.M. ON OCTOBER 25 AND I SHOULD ASK MY GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE PERSONAL SECURITY FOR HIM IN NEW YORK. AMIN ROSE TO SAY GOODBY, BUT I ASKED HIM IF I COULD SAY A FEW THINGS IN REPLY. HE SAT DOWN.

7. I BEGAN BY SAYING THAT AMBASSADOR IBINGIRA HAD ALREADY BEEN IN TOUCH WITH AMBASSADOR SCHAUFELE OF OUR UN MISSION AND HAD

BEEN ASSURED THAT THE USG ACCEPTED RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIS SECURITY, AS WE DID FOR ALL CHIEFS OF STATE, ETC. VISITING UN, AND THOUGH ABSOLUTE SECURITY COULD NEVER BE GUARANTEED, WE WOULD CERTAINLY DO OUR BEST TO PROTECT HIM.

8. REGARDING THE MIDDLE EAST AND HIS CONCERN ABOUT SIXTH FLEET, I RESPONDED WITH INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED REF (B), WHICH I SAID I HAD JUST RECEIVED THAT MORNING. AMIN'S COMMENT WAS TO TELL ETIANG TO PREPARE A TELEGRAM TO BE SENT TO UNSYG WALDHEIM STATING THAT IF ANY PEACE MISSION OR FLEET TO BE USED FOR EVACUATING CIVILIANS WAS TO BE SENT TO ZONE OF FIGHTING IT SHOULD INCLUDE RUSSIANS AND CHINESE, NOT JUST AMERICANS. I INTERJECTED THAT UN PEACE-KEEPING MISSIONS ARE ORDINARILY STAFFED BY MILITARY MEN AND CIVILIANS FROM NEUTRAL AND THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES, WITHOUT ANYONE FROM THE MAJOR POWERS, FOR OBVIOUS REASONS. BUT AS FOR EVACUATING CITIZENS, THAT WAS A NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY. AMIN THEN SAID WE COULD NOT HAVE AMERICANS INVOLVING THEMSELVES IN SUCH MATTERS BECAUSE THEY SUPPORT ONE SIDE ONLY, ISRAEL, SO TELEGRAM TO WALDHEIM SHOULD BE AMENDED TO STATE THAT ANY FLEET SENT THERE SHOULD BE STAFFED BY PEOPLE FROM THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES OF ASIA, LATIN AMERICA, AFRICA, ETC.

9. I THEN RAN THROUGH INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED IN REF (A), FIRST IN MY OWN WORDS, AND THEN READING FROM NOTES I HAD WITH ME. AMIN ASKED ME TO GO SLOWLY SO HE COULD UNDERSTAND IT ALL. I OFFERED TO GIVE HIM MY NOTES, IF HE WOULD TREAT THEM AS STRICTLY UNOFFICIAL AIDES TO MEMORY, SO THAT HE WOULD KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO SAY. HE ACCEPTED WITH GRATITUDE, BUT HE MADE NO COMMENT ON WHAT I SAID ABOUT USG-GOU RELATIONS. IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR ASSURANCES REGARDING TREATMENT OF AMERICAN TOURISTS COMING TO UGANDA AND WHAT WE SHOULD TELL TOURIST AGENCIES AND TRAVELERS WHO INQUIRE, AMIN STATED POINT BLANK THAT WHILE HE LIKES AMERICANS AND WELCOMES AMERICAN TOURISTS IN UGANDA, JEWS

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ARE NOT WELCOME TO COME HERE, NO MATTER WHETHER THEY ARE AMERICAN CITIZENS OR CITIZENS OF OTHER COUNTRIES. JEWS ARE NOT WELCOME PERIOD, HE SAID. HE ADDED THAT ANY TOURISTS COMING HERE FROM NEW YORK OR WASHINGTON OR ELSEWHERE IN U.S. SHOULD COME DIRECTLY TO UGANDA AND NOT VIA OTHER COUNTRIES, AND FURTHERMORE THEY SHOULD DEAL DIRECTLY WITH THE UGANDA TOURIST CORPORATION, WHICH WOULD MAKE ALL ARRANGEMENTS AND ISSUE THEM ID CARDS TO BE USED WHILE IN UGANDA.

10. COMMENTS: (A) BELIEVE AMIN'S REMARKS REGARDING JEWS NOT BEING WELCOME HERE OUGHT TO BE PASSED PRIVATELY TO TOURIST TRADE IN QUIET MANNER. WE MAY STILL HAVE PROBLEMS WITH OCCASIONAL PERSON WHO WANDERS INTO UGANDA UNAWARES, BUT DISSEMINATION OF AMIN'S REMARKS SHOULD STOP MOST OF THE TOURIST FLOW HERE. (B) AS DEPARTMENT IS WELL AWARE, IT WOULD BE UNWISE NOT TO TAKE

AMIN'S THREATS SERIOUSLY, AS HE IS NOT A RATIONAL MAN BY ANY MEANS. WE HAVE ALREADY BEGUN TO PREPARE FOR ANY EVENTUALITIES, ESPECIALLY WITH A CRASH PROGRAM OF BURNING CLASSIFIED MATERIAL. I AM NOT OVERLY CONCERNED OVER OUR IMMEDIATE PROSPECTS, AND AM OF THE OPINION THAT OUR FATE HERE IN NEAR-TERM FUTURE WILL DEPEND ALMOST ENTIRELY ON COURSE OF THE FIGHTING IN THE MIDDLE EAST. IF AMIN HEARS FALSE, OR TRUE, REPORTS OF AMERICAN INTERVENTION ON SIDE OF ISRAEL, WE WILL BE IN FOR A VERY BAD SHOW. FURTHERMORE,

HE TENDS TO BELIEVE EVERYTHING HE HEARS, ESPECIALLY IF IT IS ABOUT THO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PFOR UG US XF
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973KAMPAL03014
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: KAMPALA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731037/aaaabbcb.tel
Line Count: 175
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 STATE 195521, 73 STATE 201368, 73 KAMPALA 3000
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 01 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01-Aug-2001 by phillir0>; APPROVED <16-Aug-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: USG-GOU RELATIONS: MEETING WITH GENERAL AMIN
TAGS: n/a
To: SECSTATE WASHDC DAR ES SALAAM LONDON NAIROBI KIGALI USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005